

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action dated March 20, 2003, the Examiner asserted that the drawings of the present invention still do not have any support for the feature of 'the absolute value of the non-select voltage applied to the non-select word lines is smaller than the absolute value of the voltage applied to the substrate' as recited in the specification. Applicant is not aware of any requirement that everything disclosed in the specification must also be shown in the drawings. Rather, drawings are required only where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented (37 CFR 1.81). Since the feature quoted by the Examiner is no longer being claimed, the Examiner's objection to the drawings is misplaced and vague.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner also noted that Tanaka discloses that the absolute value of the non-select voltage (-12V) applied to the non-select word lines is equal to the absolute voltage applied to the substrate. However, claims 3 and 4 were previously allowed (see Office Action of 4/23/02, where the Examiner stated that "the row decoder as recited in claims 3-6 has not been found in the prior art"). At the time of this Office Action, the Examiner was aware of the Tanaka reference and admitted that this reference did not show the features of claims 3 and 4. Since claims 5 and 6 depend from claims 3 and 4, respectively, these claims should also be allowed.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner stated that the 35 USC 112, first paragraph, rejection was sustained. In consideration of the claim amendments filed in the Amendment being entered with this RCE, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 204552018400.

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Respectfully submitted,

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